

Remarks/Arguments

The Rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 12 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,413,157 (Marton). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Anticipation requires that all of the elements of the claim be taught within the four corners of a single reference.

Claim 1

Marton does not teach a second element connected to a first element

Claim 1 recites: “a second element detachably *connected* (emphasis added) to said first element;” Element 62 in Marton is not detachably connected to element 60 as the Examiner asserts. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “connect” as: “to link or join.” The Merriam-Webster On-Line Dictionary adds: “*transitive senses*: to join or fasten together usually by something intervening.” Two pieces that touch are not linked or fastened together by something intervening. For example, a book resting on a desk is not connected to the desk. Marton clearly teaches that elements 60 and 62 are connected to drive head 50 and at most may touch each other: “a combination of a first balance weight 60 and a counterbalance weight 62 are mounted on the drive head 50...” (col 3, line 67 to col. 4, line 1). “Accordingly, the first balance weight 60 is lighter than the counterbalance weight 62 and is located higher on the drive head 50 than the counterbalance weight 62,” (col. 4, lines 18-21). “However, in the present embodiments, the first balance weight 60 and the counter balance weight 62 are both made with circular bores 64 fitted over a cylindrical portion 66 of the drive head 50. The weights both have laterally extending arms 68, 70 that provide their eccentric masses, the rotational mass of the arm 68 of the first balance weight 60 being substantially less than that of the arm 70 of the counterbalance weight 62. *Both weights 60, 62 are retained on the drive head by locking screws 72* (emphasis added), which extend through their respective arms to engage the cylindrical portion 66 of the drive head 50. Alternatively, weights 60, 62 may be permanently attached to the drive head 50.” (col. 4, lines 26-39).

The figures in Marton also show that elements 60 and 62 are connected to the drive head and at most merely touch. For example, Figure 2 shows respective screws 72 connecting elements 60 and 62 to the drive head.

Claim 2

Claim 1 is novel with respect to Marton. Claim 2, dependent from Claim 1, enjoys the same distinction with respect to Marton.

Claim 12

Claim 12 recites: "a second head portion element detachably connected to said first element..." This is substantially the same limitation as argued above for Claim 1. Therefore, the arguments for Claim 1 apply to Claim 12 and Claim 12 is novel with respect to Marton.

Applicants courteously request that the rejection be removed.

The Objection of Claims 3 through 11 as Being Dependent Upon a Rejected Base Claim

Claims 3 through 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have shown that Claim 1 is novel with respect to Marton. Therefore, Claims 3-11, dependent from Claim 1, are not dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants courteously request that the objection be removed.

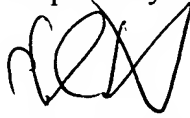
Allowance of Claim 13

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claim 13.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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